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Summary record of the 16th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 25 October 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chairman:	Mr. Acharya	(Nepal)
later:	Mr. Andersson (Vice-Chairman)	(Sweden)
later:	Mr. Acharya (Chairman)	(Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 30: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Pouquet-El Chami** (France), speaking as working group Chairman, proposed that the Committee should defer taking action on the two draft resolutions under item 30 to a later date, to allow time for further reconciliation of views.

2. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 33: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

3. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (China) observed that peacekeeping operations were entering a new period of rapid development, in terms of scale, range of mandates and global recognition, thus placing greater demands on the Secretariat and on Member States. In order to respond, the Organization should improve its programming and management of the operations, and Member States must show the political will needed to maintain world and regional peace and security, while providing timely mission support.

4. In developing and reforming peacekeeping operations, the focus should be on adherence to Charter principles and to Security Council guidance, strict neutrality, and the use of force only in self-defence. It was also essential to cooperate closely with regional organizations and help them improve their valuable peacekeeping capacity. The African Union in particular should receive United Nations assistance in logistics, training, information technology and funds.

5. The security situation in some areas was grim, and the safety of the peacekeepers, a priority, must be ensured by the Secretariat through joint safety management, the use of technology to reduce risks, and better communication with troop-contributing countries.

6. Since conflict prevention relied on economic development and the building of structures and capabilities as much as on peacekeeping and demanded comprehensive strategies involving all the specialized United Nations agencies, the international financial institutions and the relevant regional bodies, it was also crucial for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to coordinate with the Peacebuilding Commission and its Support Office. Over the years, China itself had sent more than 6,000 peacekeepers on 16 operations in various parts of the world, and it would continue its active participation.

7. **Mr. Aljunied** (Singapore) said that the Department had done well, under challenging conditions involving increasingly complex mandates and dangers in the field, in managing the surge in peacekeeping operations. Planning, supervision and drawing the right lessons remained key factors. The lessons of Haiti and Timor-Leste, for example, were a reminder of the dangers of premature disengagement, while incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse by some peacekeepers had stained the Organization's professional image.

8. Despite its achievements, however, the Department's work required more basic scrutiny. To move the reform agenda forward, wider agreement must be reached on the specific areas needing reform, and decisions made on priorities; and the troop-contributing countries must be consulted on an agreed mechanism to drive the process. The Department's work methods and expertise needed critical review and integration, in the interests of effective command and control. Coordination seemed to be a major weakness, and there must be better strategic thinking and forward planning. Learning from past operations, the Department should build up domain knowledge and peacekeeping doctrine and should strengthen its ability to share the lessons learned in the field quickly with other missions and with troop-contributing countries. The number of its military and police officials managing operations at Headquarters should also be increased.

9. The Department should establish systematic partnerships with regional groupings, which had their own expertise to offer. The many dimensions of peacekeeping required concomitant expertise in a wide range of fields requiring the Department to join with other institutions in assembling and deploying the needed capabilities. Peacekeepers and peacebuilders must become natural partners. Led by the Department, peacekeepers must work with security, technical, financial and humanitarian experts, from the early stages of a mission. Successful peacekeeping missions were those which ultimately allowed countries to stand on their own.

10. **Mr. Chem** (Cambodia) said that the dramatic increase of peacekeeping operations since 2002 showed that the world relied primarily on the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. Timely

deployment was required to meet the challenge and that depended on cooperation among all concerned, the political will to succeed, and mutual trust.

11. Cambodia, having recovered from decades of unparalleled destruction and taken command of its own destiny, had a rich experience in conflict resolution, national reconciliation and peacebuilding, which had led it to strong economic growth and stability. His country used to be a net recipient of international aid during the years of the United Nations-supervised transitional administration leading to the 1993 elections. In 2005, however, Cambodia had moved to the status of a contributor country, having provided forces or equipment to the missions in Sudan and Timor-Leste.

12. The peacekeeping operations in the Sudan showed the need for better coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations like the African Union. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was working towards the establishment, in the long term, of the ASEAN security community, which would eventually also become active in strengthening the work of the United Nations.

13. **Mr. Almorad** (Kuwait) said that while peacekeeping operations had an increasingly vital role to play in defusing tensions and crises around the world, the tasks, goals and leadership structures of such operations must be clearly defined and new ways must be devised for enhancing coordination and consultation between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries in order to incorporate lessons learned and best practices. The role of the United Nations in early warning and preventive diplomacy also needed to be strengthened while there should be a comprehensive review of training needs to improve coordination in field mission planning. He welcomed the increasing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, expressed the hope that enhancement of the standby arrangements system would improve rapid deployment capabilities and endorsed the measures to implement the recommendations of the Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel.

14. He commended the United Nations for its role in maintaining boundary markers between Kuwait and Iraq pursuant to Security Council resolution 833 (1993) and reaffirmed Kuwait's readiness to provide the Department with any assistance necessary for completing that task. Even though Kuwait's share of the peacekeeping budget had increased fivefold over the preceding few years, it was committed to meeting its obligations in a timely fashion and urged other countries to do likewise. His delegation condemned actions that threatened or targeted United Nations peacekeeping personnel, who were risking their lives in the service of peace, and urged that everything possible should be done to ensure their safety.

15. **Ms. Williams** (Jamaica) observed that contemporary peacekeeping operations had become increasingly challenging and complex, given their multifaceted, dynamic nature, the recent upsurge in the demand for them, the increased threat to the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel around the world, the expanded scope of the operations and the limited resources available. While primarily concerned with conflicts between States, missions also operated in domestic conflicts deemed to pose a risk to international peace and security or, in cases of gross violations of international law.

16. The effectiveness of peacekeeping operations depended on a close collaboration between the international military, civilian and police components. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should pursue the reform it had begun in 2000. It had successfully increased the quantity and quality of staff both at Headquarters and in the field, and instituted greater cooperation with the troop-contributing countries. Yet there was substantial room for improvement, since at the same time it faced difficulty in recruiting qualified and well-trained civilian staff and lacked sufficient guidance and oversight systems and well-defined policies for peacekeeping staff.

17. For over a decade, Jamaica had been making modest contributions to peacekeeping activities by providing military and/or police officers to the missions in Haiti, Liberia and the Sudan, and possibly to the forthcoming mission to Timor-Leste.

18. Jamaica supported the work being undertaken to improve standards of conduct in peacekeeping missions and endorsed the zero-tolerance approach to sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers, all cases of which must be investigated and dealt with. It also welcomed the close cooperation between the Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in a unified security management system to protect personnel in the field.

The peacekeeping personnel who risked their lives daily, and especially those who had lost their lives in pursuit of peace, deserved tribute.

19. **Mr. Rampangilei** (Indonesia) saluted the more than 2,000 persons who had paid the ultimate price for United Nations peacekeeping, 29 of whom had been Indonesian peacekeepers. Since 1956, Indonesia had participated in 26 missions worldwide, the most recent being in south Lebanon.

20. The large number of deployments and the evolving nature of peacekeeping operations were a substantial challenge, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would need to put in place effective planning and management systems, skilled staff and sufficient technical, material and financial resources. The Department had made commendable efforts to restructure itself and become more field-oriented. Indonesia looked forward to effective reforms that would ensure the complete support and the response systems needed both at Headquarters and in the field. It would appreciate regular updates as to what the Department was doing in that regard, how accountability was being enforced and what had been done to avoid fatalities.

21. Clear mandates and a full understanding by all those involved as to their respective responsibilities were intrinsic to safe and effective operations. The Secretariat needed to improve communication and information technology capabilities in the field to ensure an effective interplay between it, the field officers and all others involved in an operation. Headquarters must also coordinate more effectively with the troop-contributing countries so that troops could be deployed rapidly and systematically and, once in the field, receive equal treatment.

22. While the United Nations budget for peacekeeping had risen to $5 billion, it still represented only 0.5 per cent of global military spending. Peacekeeping operations demanded adequate resources, as they increasingly performed non-traditional tasks such as mediation, disarmament, election supervision and assistance in the reform of security sectors, social services and even government finances. Ineffective performance due to a lack of resources would make the United Nations lose credibility and cost the peacekeepers critical local support.

23. Complex mandates required trained staff of the highest calibre. His delegation welcomed the Department's improved recruitment systems and the establishment of the Integrated Training Service and the Best Practices Section. The development of a core policy document — on which Member States should be fully consulted — setting comprehensive guidelines for peacekeeping was another positive step.

24. Sexual abuse and exploitation by any United Nations peacekeeping personnel was unacceptable and the recommendations made by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the matter should be fully implemented.

25. Real peace would come only when the international community remained closely involved with local stakeholders in finding political solutions and in creating conditions for effective reconstruction and development, the features also of a successful exit strategy, and unfortunately a slow process. Although the primary responsibility for nation-building and the maintenance of peace lay with the national governments, they needed international support, which must continue when the post-conflict situations were no longer in the headlines, for that was the critical phase in the consolidation of peace and the transition to normalcy.

26. The Peacebuilding Commission was well placed to facilitate peacekeeping and could leverage resources with the greatest impact because of its role as coordinator of the national and international bodies involved in peacekeeping. The concept of joint programming was promising, and his delegation would be following the outcome of the integrated missions in Sierra Leone and Burundi, in the hope that successful models there could be replicated. It was also important for peacekeepers not to withdraw too hastily from conflict-scarred countries. Peacemaking would be successful only when the international partners engaged all actors on an equal basis and addressed the root causes of grievances equitably, in accordance with the Charter and international law. Respect for United Nations peacekeeping was unmatched and it remained one of the most potent tools in the hands of the international community for the promotion of international peace and security.

27. *Mr. Andersson (Sweden), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

28. **Mr. Wali** (Nigeria) said that, despite some regrettable failures, United Nations peacekeeping had become synonymous with peace and security. However, peacekeepers were exposed to difficult situations in

which some governments or groups were unable or unwilling to address the consequences of poor governance and abuses. He condemned the kidnapping and killing of peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Lebanon. Perpetrators of crimes against peacekeepers should be subject to international law. It was important to establish a new doctrine on peacekeeping that outlined policies, procedures and guidelines that would meet future challenges.

29. The peaceful resolution of conflicts and support for multilateral efforts towards global peace and security were core principles of his Government's foreign policy. His Government's commitment to peacekeeping included the deployment of troops, police and officers of the Nigerian Prisons Service and Immigration Department. The emphasis should be on prevention rather than intervention, and preventative measures would reduce the number and cost of peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, there was a need to support and enhance the capacity of regional institutions to complement United Nations peacekeeping functions. In order to promote nation-building it was necessary to focus on youth employment and on repairing the social and economic infrastructure of the affected countries as well as on good governance, the rule of law and security sector reform. His delegation welcomed the launching of the Peacebuilding Fund and the country-specific meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission on Sierra Leone and Burundi. It welcomed the establishment of the Group of Legal Experts to investigate criminal acts, sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeeping personnel. Concrete measures were needed to eliminate those reprehensible acts and to preserve the image, credibility and integrity of the Organization. His Government supported a zero tolerance policy.

30. The situation in Darfur represented one of the greatest challenges to the African Union and the recent decision to extend the mandate of the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) reflected the continent's commitment to peace in that region. His Government welcomed the support package established by the United Nations and the African Union and looked forward to further progress in the framework of the Secretary-General's consultations with the Government of the Sudan. His delegation fully supported the reform process and was confident that those reforms would allow the Organization to meet the high demand for peacekeeping operations worldwide.

31. **Mr. Navoti** (Fiji) said that his Government fully supported the proposed reforms aimed at increasing the professionalism, management and efficiency of peacekeeping operations. The establishment of a cadre of civilian peacekeepers would create a professional and effective management capacity and in particular would enhance mid-level management capacity. It was evident that the civilian police unit was understaffed and could not cope with the mandates of existing and newly established peacekeeping missions. His Government would support proposals for budgetary adjustments aimed at addressing that shortcoming.

32. Criminality and misconduct tarnished the reputation of the Organization and his Government supported a zero tolerance policy. Due consideration would be given to the report of the Group of Legal Experts contained in document A/60/980, which recommended the development of an international convention to address jurisdiction and related issues. As peacekeeping had evolved, the distinction between peacekeeping and peacebuilding had been blurred. However, those two processes complemented each other in a mutually reinforcing fashion and his delegation called for closer working relations between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Support Office. Cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Security and Safety should also be continued to ensure the security of uniformed and civilian peacekeeping personnel.

33. **Mr. Ohlson** (United States of America) said that peacekeeping missions had increasingly complex integrated mandates. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations had made progress in improving its planning capacity, logistics and relations with regional organizations and by setting standards for conduct and establishing relations with donors. Careful coordination was especially important and his delegation welcomed the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, particularly on the country-specific studies. Rule of law, economic viability and representational government must be established early and sustained throughout and after peacekeeping operations. As soon as possible after the active phase of a conflict had been concluded, it was important to distinguish between those tasks that were appropriate for the Department and those that should be addressed by other stakeholders. Furthermore, it was necessary to examine whether some peacekeeping operations were prolonging conflicts by not forcing

parties to resolve their differences through political or diplomatic means. Peacekeeping operations should not substitute for a full and participatory process aimed at complete conflict resolution.

34. Significant progress had been made in addressing the issues of sexual exploitation and abuse. However, the Organization should not let its guard down to allow those types of crimes to be perpetrated on such a scale and with such impunity again. The firm commitment of Member States had led to many changes in the way peacekeeping was performed. His delegation encouraged all Member States to work together in adopting the core precepts of the draft model memorandum of understanding. All Member States had the duty to investigate and prosecute in a timely manner any of their citizens who were involved in breaches of conduct and discipline. It was important to leave political exigencies aside and focus on the initiatives and reforms needed to ensure that peacekeeping was conducted in the most efficient and professional manner possible. Many lives depended on that objective being met.

35. *Mr. Acharya (Nepal) resumed the Chair.*

36. **Ms. Makhumula** (Malawi) said that her Government had contributed over 93,000 men and women to United Nations peacekeeping operations and fully supported the effective manner in which those operations had been conducted. Her Government welcomed efforts aimed at enhancing African peacekeeping capacities in areas such as establishing a common doctrine, training standards, logistical support, funding and institutional capacity for the planning and management of peacekeeping operations. The African Union peacekeeping operation in Darfur required the support and logistical backing of the international community. Her Government welcomed the report of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations working group, which recommended that staff officers should be provided with subsistence allowance in lieu of reimbursing the troop-contributing country. Furthermore, in the ongoing reform process, it was important to address the imbalance in the geographical representation of Member States. Her Government was committed to providing troops and also personnel trained in handling allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.

37. **Ms. Ziade** (Lebanon) said that her delegation supported the reform process that was aimed at addressing the challenges in peacekeeping operations. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had been deployed in 1978 to assist the Government of Lebanon in establishing stability and social cohesion. UNIFIL had suffered from Israeli aggression during the second Israeli invasion of 1982. In 1986, UNIFIL had been bombarded and had suffered heavy losses; it had been bombarded again in 2006 with four officers losing their lives. In Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) the mandate of UNIFIL had been broadened and extended until 31 August 2007 to deal with ongoing Israeli aggression. Her delegation commended the speed with which troops had been deployed to Lebanon and the commitment of the international community to the just cause of Lebanon. The safety and security of UNIFIL personnel were the responsibility of all Member States. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy had described the cooperation between UNIFIL and the Government of Lebanon as excellent. The work of UNIFIL was conducted in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respected the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon and did not intervene in matters that lay within the jurisdiction of that State. It was the desire of her Government to establish peace in the Middle East and to make the Middle East an example of successful peacebuilding.

38. **Ms. Turuphial** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that peacekeeping operations should be undertaken in strict compliance with the Charter, including the principles of sovereignty, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs and territorial integrity. They should be governed by criteria of impartiality, the non-use of force except in self-defence and the consent of the parties. While regional arrangements contributed to peacekeeping operations, they should be in line with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

39. Her delegation supported Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) on strengthening cooperation with troop-contributing countries but wished to stress that such countries, the majority of which were developing countries, should participate actively in the planning of all peacekeeping operations. Her delegation was concerned about efforts to combine peacekeeping operations, which were short-term and task-specific, with peacebuilding operations, which were long-term and should be carried out by the

relevant United Nations agencies. It was also concerned about sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeeping mission personnel and supported the Organization's zero tolerance policy and the campaigns and codes of conduct devised by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to address the problem.

40. Finally, all Member States must pay their assessed contributions according to their capacity to pay. Although some States paid higher assessed contributions, that did not entitle them to special privileges in the management of peacekeeping operations.

41. **Mr. Song** Se Il (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that strict observance of the principle of respect for sovereignty in all United Nations peacekeeping operations was essential to world peace and security. A series of cases of sexual abuse perpetrated by peacekeeping personnel against civilians were a violation of sovereignty and of human rights. The prime cause of those abuses was the lack of decisive measures by the United Nations and participant countries to observe the principle of respect for sovereignty and human rights, and the historical lack of accountability for sexual abuses. He called for legal measures to punish human rights violations committed in peacekeeping operations and for measures to hold Japan accountable for its past crimes.

42. Peacekeeping operations could not be successful if individual countries did not stop using United Nations operations for improper political and military purposes. A first step towards ending the misuse of United Nations operations would be to dismantle the United Nations Command, illegally established by the United States for its own purposes, which had blocked the settlement of the Korean issue and damaged United Nations credibility.

43. **Mr. Al-Otmi** (Yemen) said that it was important for peacekeeping operations to stay within their mandates, use force only in self-defence and avoid interfering in the internal affairs of States. Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union on peacekeeping in the Sudan should be carried out with the Sudanese Government's approval, and any troop deployment should be carried out with the consent of the Sudanese Government. Yemen, like many other States, condemned the attacks against United Nations facilities and personnel and believed that more needed to be done to protect the lives of peacekeepers. The principle of equitable geographic distribution should be applied to civilian and military posts in peacekeeping forces in order to ensure neutrality and universality.

44. Yemen shared international concern over sexual exploitation and abuse committed by some United Nations personnel, which had tarnished the Organization's credibility and reputation, and welcomed the efforts of the Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel, the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, and the Secretary-General's policy of zero-tolerance for such actions. The regional United Nations information centres, such as the one in Sana'a, needed to be utilized to improve the Organization's image.

45. The establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission would enable the Organization to play a vital role in post-conflict reconstruction and development; the Commission's mandate needed to be clarified, however. Yemen also supported a genuine three-way partnership among the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries and would cooperate with the Department and all peace-loving peoples for the dissemination of a culture of peace.

46. **Mr. Stastoli** (Albania) said that Albania remained committed to increasing its contribution to all areas of peacekeeping operations, with a core national target of full membership in the European Union. In that regard, it looked forward to cooperating with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations both in the framework of United Nations peacekeeping operations and, in a larger partnership with the European Union.

47. The increase in peacekeeping operations had enhanced the Department's competence, and its successes should be publicized, in particular through its Best Practices Section, to highlight what it had learned.

48. Albania supported reform of the Department, in particular the establishment of rapid-deployment capabilities. Troop conduct should be properly addressed, emphasizing respect for host country customs and culture. As adequate financial and material resources were needed to ensure the security of all mission staff, the Secretariat should establish an effective management system to account for mission expansion and to ensure finances were properly channelled. All issues were equally important and

could only be addressed with the serious commitment of Member States.

49. **Mr. Kebret** (Ethiopia) said that global peace and security required more effective peacekeeping missions with adequate human, financial and logistical support. Ethiopia would continue to do its part by remaining a major troop-contributing country. Increased demand for peacekeeping operations required clear, coherent policies for effective work. There was a need for a United Nations-wide system of coordination in the planning, conduct and support of integrated missions, in particular strategies for coordination among the Peacebuilding Commission, its Support Office and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

50. Partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations were critical, taking into account in particular the special needs of Africa and the importance of a strong African Union (AU). The Department should concentrate on working with AU to strengthen regional peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities.

51. Although encouraging work had been done by Africa in the area of peacekeeping, conflicts had persisted in some parts of the continent because AU was facing challenges that were greater than its resources. While his delegation welcomed the support of the United Nations to AU, including the joint action plan between the Department and the AU Peace Support Operations Division to build and develop Africa's peacekeeping capacity, it felt that such support had lacked strategy, consistency and its own budget. Ethiopia therefore welcomed the proposed arrangement that would streamline cooperation between the United Nations and AU in peacekeeping matters.

52. Sexual exploitation and abuse required the immediate action of United Nations Member States and concerned parties. While the establishment of conduct and discipline units at Headquarters and in the field was a welcome development, the capacity of the Office of Internal Oversight Services needed to be enhanced to avoid delays in investigations.

53. **Mr. Kapoma** (Zambia) welcomed the close collaboration between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Safety and Security in the establishment of field structures such as joint operations centres and joint mission analysis centres. Since the military and police divisions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations were understaffed, he supported the call to strengthen the Department. In that regard, he urged the Department to equitably allocate vacancies to consistent troop-contributing countries to address their lack of representation and to quickly inform Member States of the final selection of candidates for positions so that unsuccessful candidates could be deployed elsewhere. His delegation endorsed the Department's proposed measures to address conduct and discipline in peacekeeping operations, in particular the revision of the draft model memorandum of understanding with regard to the provision of troops. Finally, he welcomed the joint United Nations-AU action plan for assistance to African Union peacekeeping capacity-building.

54. **Mr. Baatar** (Mongolia) said that quality training for peacekeeping personnel was essential and welcomed progress made by the Integrated Training Service. Mongolia was developing training in the context of its peacekeeping capacities and had introduced United Nations peacekeeping training standards for all pre-deployment troop-training programmes. It also intended to establish a regional peacekeeping training centre for regional militaries supporting peacekeeping operations.

55. As a troop-contributing country, Mongolia was concerned about the danger posed to peacekeeping troops as a result of issues of sexual exploitation and abuse. He welcomed the Department's efforts to combat the problem, stressing that Mongolian troops were thoroughly instructed on issues of sexual exploitation and abuse in pre-deployment training programmes. He also welcomed the Department's priority of establishing an exit strategy, as it was important for the effective allocation of limited resources. Close collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission would also contribute to successful exit strategies.

56. **Ms. Jayasuriya** (Sri Lanka) said that a substantial number of Sri Lankan military and police personnel were currently serving in United Nations missions. The expansion, in both scope and scale, of United Nations peacekeeping operations had made them ever more complex and thus increased the need for additional resources, both human and financial. Peacekeeping was, however, only an intermediate step on the long path leading towards sustainable peace and was therefore no substitute for post-conflict peacebuilding and the pursuit of amicable settlements to protracted conflicts, which were best handled by

other United Nations bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office. Closer coordination and cooperation between such bodies and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations could facilitate the timely withdrawal of peacekeeping troops without jeopardizing opportunities to find long-term solutions to conflicts.

57. It was essential that the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, such as the consent of the parties, non-intervention in matters within domestic jurisdiction, abstention from use of force except in self-defence and impartiality, should be observed during peacekeeping operations. Any regional arrangements in peacekeeping operations should therefore be in line with the provisions of the Charter. In that connection, her delegation welcomed United Nations efforts to augment regional peacekeeping efforts by the African Union.

58. It was important to have a mechanism for providing troop-contributing countries with early and full information on new missions or expanded mandates. Peacekeeping missions should be given clearly defined and pragmatic mandates.

59. The safety and security of peacekeeping personnel were of the utmost concern to her delegation. The necessary resources must be made available, but better coordination between Headquarters and missions was also crucial to overall efficiency. Reinforcement of the human resource capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be carried out in an open and transparent manner, ensuring equitable opportunities. Her delegation was happy to offer the facilities of the Sri Lanka Institute of Peace Support Operations Training, which could accommodate 500 military personnel at a time, for future United Nations training programmes.

60. Sri Lanka endorsed the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. It commended the Department's work on promoting accountability and increasing awareness. The Department of Public Information should also be involved in explaining peacekeeping operations to the public.

61. **Mr. Chidyausiku** (Zimbabwe) said that the growing number of peacekeeping operations indicated a regrettable rise in hostilities around the world, which, in turn, resulted in a huge budget for the United Nations. Close cooperation was required between States and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the timely provision of personnel and much-needed financial support. His delegation urged all stakeholders in conflict prevention to take action to eradicate conflict not only by providing peacekeepers but by addressing the root causes of conflict. The safety and security of peacekeeping personnel must be given priority. The establishment of joint operations centres and joint mission analysis centres was a welcome development in that regard.

62. Acts of misconduct, particularly sexual offences, by uniformed and civilian personnel deployed in peacekeeping operations had tarnished the image of the United Nations. His delegation therefore welcomed the appointment of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse as a means of strengthening the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation. It was also pleased to note that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was not only seeking to punish offenders but also working on ways of helping victims. The Department's efforts should be complemented by Member States, which should incorporate courses on conduct and discipline in training programmes for peacekeeping personnel. He expressed appreciation for the Department's assistance to the African Union Mission in the Sudan. The regional arrangements system was working well.

63. **Ms. Shanidze** (Georgia) commended the efforts to meet modern threats and challenges, both through the Peacebuilding Commission and through increased resources for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Her delegation welcomed the establishment of the Standing Police Capacity. It was crucial that peacekeeping troops should be properly trained and equipped to fulfil their mission. Sometimes, however, experience gained from previous operations was not fully applied. Political considerations not infrequently limited an operation's efficiency.

64. The situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, was a case in point. The peacekeeping operation had been ineffective because the peacekeepers, whose mandate was to maintain the ceasefire and create conditions for the safe return of 300,000 internally displaced persons and refugees ethnically cleansed from the territory of Abkhazia, had been deployed from a neighbouring country. Such a course of action was controversial in principle and should be confined to the rare occasions when the impartiality of the neighbouring country concerned was beyond doubt. That was not the case

with regard to Abkhazia. Refugees had no guarantee of safety. Almost 2,000 Georgians had been killed and numerous crimes had been committed in the areas under the responsibility of the peacekeepers, who, by their own admission, had undergone no specialist training and considered themselves part of the military. Not surprisingly, Georgians increasingly considered the troops to have the sole function of isolating Abkhazia from the rest of Georgia. The majority of the people living in Abkhazia had been granted Russian citizenship, so the peacekeeping force was clearly not impartial but rather sought to alienate the two sides. The Secretary-General's report (S/1994/80) had put forward two options: a traditional peacekeeping force under United Nations command or a multilateral force with troops from interested States, including the Russian Federation. It had, regrettably, been decided to adopt the second option. The situation should be rectified with the establishment of a proper peacekeeping operation, with greater international involvement. Only thus could real progress be made in the peace process.

65. **Mr. Obando** (Peru) said that, over recent years, peacekeeping operations had developed a multidimensional nature: their military capacity had grown but so had the civilian police component. The international community should not, however, overlook the common denominator of internal conflicts, namely exclusion, poverty and marginalization. Unless preventive action was required, the international community's efforts should be directed at development strategies. If conflict management failed to distinguish between the symptom and the cause, no peacekeeping operation would be sustainable.

66. Recent experience showed that, when a conflict broke out, the United Nations should act immediately to prevent and mitigate massive human rights violations. For that reason, Peru had consistently expressed support for the United Nations to have the necessary rapid reaction capacity using troops made available by States that volunteered them unconditionally and in accordance with a pre-established mandate. The weakness of the current system was illustrated by the experience of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. On the basis of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), immediate reinforcements had been required, owing to the possibility of a resumption of the conflict. They had been found in record time, but it had still taken two months to amass the minimum 5,000-strong force. The uncertainty, and the probability of more irreversible damage, would have been avoided had the Organization had rapid-deployment strategic reserves at its disposal.

67. The need to adjust to growing demand and the increasing complexity of peacekeeping operations made it essential to carry out the previously agreed reforms to the structure and composition of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the interests of efficiency. One particularly important reform would be to develop withdrawal strategies for peacekeeping operations in order to avoid the recurrence of a given conflict and lay the foundations for sustainable development in the country concerned.

68. His delegation commended the progress made with regard to the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeeping personnel. Not only should the zero-tolerance policy be maintained, however, but all those involved should provide assurances on impunity, so that those responsible for such acts were duly punished.

69. Over the past few years, Peru had increased its participation in peacekeeping operations and currently had personnel based in Haiti, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and the Sudan. It was also interested in working with the Department on training courses for peacekeepers.

70. **Mr. Zaemsky** (Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said, with reference to the statement by the representative of Georgia, that the Georgian delegation was understandably dismayed by Security Council resolution 1716 (2006), which presented a balanced view of the conflict between Abkhazia and Georgia. Unlike the representative of Georgia, he would not burden the Committee with the details of what was essentially a bilateral issue. He merely urged the Georgian delegation to accept the existing agreements. The Georgian statement had nothing to do with peacekeeping operations in general. It was tendentious and inappropriate.

Reports of the group of legal experts on ensuring the accountability of United Nations staff and experts on mission with respect to criminal acts committed in peacekeeping operations; advising on making the standards contained in the Secretary-General's Bulletin binding on contingent members; and standardizing the norms of conduct so that they are applicable to all categories of peacekeeping personnel

71. **The Chairman** drew attention to a non-paper submitted by him in the form of a draft resolution, which read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 59/300 of 22 June 2005, in which it endorsed the proposals, recommendations and conclusions contained in Part II of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on its resumed session [A/59/19/Rev.1],

"*Recalling in particular* Part II, Chapter II, paragraph 40 of that report, which recommended that the Secretary-General appoint a group of legal experts to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session for its consideration a comprehensive report,

"*Recalling* the decision of the General Assembly to allocate Peacekeeping Item 33, 'Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects,' to the Sixth Committee [A/61/252] as well as the SPDC (Fourth Committee),

"1. *Takes note* of the first report of the group of legal experts,[1]

"2. *Requests* that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations considers the relevant recommendations of the first report of the group of legal experts during the sixty-first session,

"3. *Requests* that the second report[2] of the group of legal experts be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session for consideration by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations."

[1] A/60/980, providing advice on the recommendation contained in Part II, chapter II, paragraph 40 (a) of the 2005 report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/59/19/Rev.1].

[2] Providing advice on the recommendation contained in Part II, Chapter II, paragraph 40 (b) and 40 (c) of the 2005 report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/59/19/Rev.1]."

72. The item had been allocated to both the Fourth and the Sixth Committees, but the division of labour had not yet been decided. He invited preliminary comments on the non-paper.

73. **Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan) said that there was no obvious need for the draft resolution. It was hard to believe that the first report of the group of legal experts would not be considered or that the second report would not be submitted to the General Assembly unless the draft resolution were adopted. Moreover, there was no precedent for draft resolutions to be submitted on peacekeeping. If it had known that there had been a change of policy, his delegation might have submitted a draft resolution on, for example, safety and security.

74. **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) expressed surprise that the Committee needed to submit the draft resolution to the Sixth Committee to obtain a legal opinion. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was perfectly capable of undertaking the task.

75. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution was needed in order to ensure that the first report of the group of legal experts was considered at the sixty-first session. There was no question of having submitted the draft resolution to the Sixth Committee for a legal overview; responsibility was shared between the two Committees. The draft resolution did not have to go forward if the Fourth Committee considered it unnecessary. Delegations were free to submit draft resolutions on any topic.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.